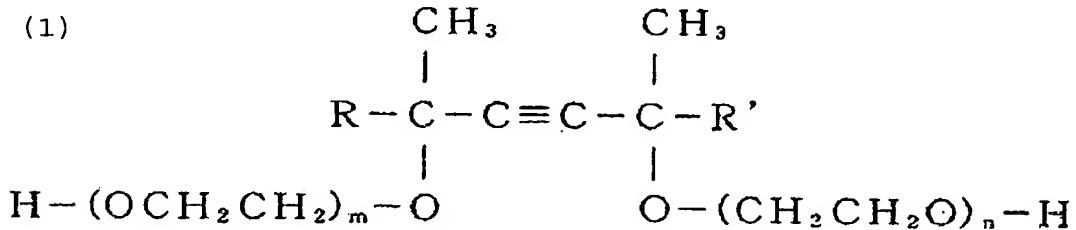


CLAIMS

1. A polychloroprene latex composition obtained by emulsion polymerization of chloroprene alone or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with 5 chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and a nonionic emulsifier.

2. The polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 1, wherein the nonionic emulsifier is a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether.

10 3. The polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 1, wherein the nonionic emulsifier is a polyoxyethylene-acetylene glycol ether represented by the formula (1) :



15 (wherein each of R and R' is an alkyl group or an aryl group, and each of m and n is an integer).

4. The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the nonionic emulsifier has a HLB value of from 14 to 19.

20 5. The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

6. The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is one having a saponification degree of from 60 to 98 mol%.

5 7. The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the total amount of the polyvinyl alcohol and the nonionic emulsifier is from 1 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of chloroprene alone, or the total amount of chloroprene and the monomer
10 copolymerizable with chloroprene, and the ratio (mass ratio) of the polyvinyl alcohol/the nonionic emulsifier is within a range of from 0.5/99.5 to 99.5/0.5.

8. The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, which has a solid content
15 concentration of from 45 to 75 mass%.

9. The polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 8, which has a pH of from 6 to 9, and a viscosity of from 5 to 5,000 mPa·s.

10. An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex
20 composition as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 9.

11. The adhesive according to Claim 10, wherein the gel content (toluene-insoluble matter) of a (co)polymer contained in the polychloroprene latex composition is from 3 to 30 mass%.

25 12. A coating agent employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 9.

13. A method for producing a polychloroprene latex

composition, which comprises emulsion polymerization of chloroprene alone, or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and a nonionic emulsifier.